White House Lauds Anti-Jewish Editor

By Jack Anderson

Both President Nixon and Vice President Agnew have paid high tribute to a notorious anti-Jewish editor in Pittsburgh.

Their effusive accolades were published by the proud editor, Geno Szebedinsky, in the same newspaper where he touted such scandalously antisemitic tracts as the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and the "Myth of Six Million."

On the front page of the Hungarian language newspaper "Magyarsag," Szebedinsky published a letter from President Nixon declaring: "Your distinguished career as editor and publisher is well known to me, I am proud to join your friends and admirers in their tribute to the enviable reputation you have earned, and to the high standards you have perpetuated. . . "

Nixon praised Szebedinsky for "four decades of . . . unfailing dedication to the cause of freedom and human dignity and justice" and added that the antisemite was "deeply appreciated by countless readers within the Hungarian community and throughout the country."

This ringing praise was echoed by Agnew who said Szebedinsky's "hard work and dedication are fine examples for others to follow." Agnew's letter was also printed on page one.

On page seven, Szebedinsky urged upon his readers an assortment of anti-Jewish literature, including Henry Ford's venemous "The International Jew," which the old car maker later repudiated, and three books by the late Lajos Marschalko, a notorious Nazi who lauded the Nazi butchers of Auschwitz.

Incriminating Words

In earlier editions, Szebedinsky printed other anti-Jewish diatribes. A front-page article on Oct. 31, 1969, for example, charges that Jews "put to death thousands of the best Hungarians or simply murdered them."

And in the same edition, Szebedinsky's paper claimed: "The Talmudic way of thinking reigns with the sign of revenge, celebrating orgies of lies, fraud and self-deception."

Last March 26, Szebedinsky advised his readers that antisemitism is really a result of "Jewry, which is living and gasping unquenchably for revenge." Anyone believing the Nazis killed six million Jews, he also printed, is brainwashed.

After Szebedinsky published the Nixon and Agnew letters last May, the World Federation of Hungarian Jews charged that Szebedinsky once wore the uniform of the SS in World War II.

The accusation was contained in stinging letters to President Nixon and to Sen. Jacob Javits, (R-N.Y.), himself a Jew. The Nixon-Agnew letters, complained the Federation, were "deeply offending to the victims of Nazi barbarism."

The Federation told us the President did not reply. We checked the extensive but incomplete Archives files of SS officers and found no record of Szebedinsky or a second name he used in Hungary, Janos Hortobagyi.

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White House Denies Anti-Semitism Charge

"President Nixon has never condoned, and does not condone, anti-Semitism in any form," the White House said of a Jack Anderson column appearing today that cites Mr. Nixon's praise for Pittsburgh editor Geno Szebedinsky.

"The President frequently sends messages of congratulations to persons being honored by testimonial dinners," the White House statement said. In this case, the statement said, the message was requested by an unnamed "reputable source" for a dinner honoring Szebedinsky and organized by the Hungarian clergy of greater Pittsburgh.

"Nothing in our information about Mr. Szebedinsky or his Hungarian-language newspaper indicated other than that he was a reputable publisher of a paper devoted to the principles of freedom."